

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: CHARGE MEETING WITH FRANCIS DENG: AUGUST 19, 1976

REF: (A) STATE 203863, (B) KHARTOUM 2406

1 CHARGE MET FOR AN HOUR WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRANCIS DENG AUG 19. SEVERAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUBJECTS WERE COVERED, AND TO FACILITATE DISTRIBUTION AND HANDLING WE SHALL SUBMIT FOUR SEPARATE CABLES ON SUBSTANCE MEETING INSTEAD OF ONE LONG REPORT. IN GENERAL, DENG AGREED WITH VARIOUS POINTS WE MADE, BUT HE INDICATED THAT ADDITIONAL REQUESTS, NOTABLY IN FINANCIAL AND MILITARY AREAS, WOULD BE LIKELY.

2. MEETING WAS CORDIAL, AND CHARGE GAINED IMPRESSION THAT DENG, WHO IS MEMBER OF RECENTLY ESTABLISHED INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IN PRESIDENCY WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO FOLLOW UP AND COORDINATE EFFORTS RESULTING FROM NIMEIRI'S VISIT TO US (SEPTEL), IS PLEASED AT AND FINDS HELPFUL OUR EFFORT TO CONTINUE RUNNING DIALOGUE ON SEVERAL MATTERS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW.

3. CHARGE REITERATED POINTS MADE PREVIOUSLY THAT THERE WAS GREAT SCOPE FOR COOPERATION AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN SUDAN AND AMERICA, PARTICULARLY WITH PARTICIPATION
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OF US PRIVATE SECTOR. CHARGE NOTED FAVORABLY RECENT STEPS

BY GOS TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT.
AT SAME TIME HE NOTED THAT FOR VARIETY OF DOMESTIC
POLITICAL, BURAUCRATIC OR OTHER REASONS, ESPECIALLY IN
SENSITIVE AREAS, USG WILL NEED TIME TO STUDY GOS REQUESTS
AND POSITIVE REPLIES CANNOT BE ASSURED. CHARGE ALSO SAID
HE HOPED AS RESULT LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS
MEETINGS SUCH AS THAT EARLIER IN WEEK RE POSSIBLE USGS
ASSISTANCE, PUBLIC DID NOT GET OVERLY OPTIMISTIC
IMPRESSION OF WHAT US WILL BE DOING HERE IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. DENG AGREED THAT PRESS TENDS TO EXAGGERATE, AND HE
UNDERSTANDS THAT MILITARY SALES, FOR EXAMPLE, CAN BE
CONTROVERSIAL WITHIN US DOMESTIC CONTEXT. NEVERTHELESS,
HE MADE INTERESTING PHILOSOPHICAL POINT THAT UNLESS
SUDANESE PEOPLE WERE BUOYED BY A MOOED OF OPTIMISM OVER
FUTURE PROSPECTS, THEY MAY SIMPLY BECOME MIRED IN ALL
THE PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY. IN SUCH CASE, GOS DEVELOPMENT
EFFORT WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT ALREADY IS.

5. SEPTELS ON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS FOLLOW.
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